NOAA Research in American Samoa

AS-1 (Cape Matatula)

Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory
Baseline Observatory

NOAA's Climate Observations and Services Program supports a network of four fully-equipped Baseline Observatories operated by the Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory (CMDL) in Boulder, Colorado. The observatories are in Barrow, Alaska; Mauna Loa, Hawaii; on the Island of Tutuila, American Samoa; and at the South Pole, Antarctica. Since 1973, CMDL has operated the Observatory as part of a global network of observatories to track and document concentrations of atmospheric elements such as carbon dioxide, methane, and carbon monoxide which can affect the world's climate, and man-made fluorocarbons that destroy the stratospheric ozone layer. Funding for the four observatories reached $1.611 million in FY 2001. This funding supports operational costs, repairs and upgrades of facilities and equipment, operational cost shortfalls associated with aerosol monitoring measurements, and carbon measurements at the observatories as well as the associated maintenance of the calibration scale and flask sampling network. For more information please visit http://www.cmdl.noaa.gov/obop/index.html

AS-1 (coastal waters)

National Undersea Research Program
National Undersea Research Center for Hawaii and the Western Pacific Region

The National Undersea Research Center for Hawaii and the Western Pacific Region is located at the University of Hawai'i in Honolulu. The undersea research program is conducted by the University's Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL). It is one of six regional centers supported by the National Undersea Research Program. HURL supports undersea research primarily around the Hawaiian Islands but includes work elsewhere in the Pacific. Center facilities include the Pisces V, a 2000-meter capable, 3-person, 1-atmosphere submersible; RCV-150, a 1000-meter remotely operated vehicle currently being upgraded to 2000 meters; and the R/V Ka'imikai-O-Kanaloa, a 220-foot dedicated support vessel with facilities for 19 scientists. During the next few years, HURL's Pacific-wide research projects will focus on deep-sea geology and ecosystems and their contribution to global climatic and ecosystem changes. Projects will include the research on the geology and biology of emerging and subsiding islands, marine product and fishery assessments, and process studies of submarine mineral accumulations on seamounts, volcanoes, and islands. In addition, baseline information will be gathered on deep-sea marine ecosystems influenced by natural and human-induced processes. The FY 2001 funding for HURL totaled $2.69 million. For more information please visit http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/HURL/

For further information about these and other NOAA programs, please contact NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 482-4981.

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